

## ARTHUR WYATT AND THE PENRHYN COLLIERY

Maurice Harp

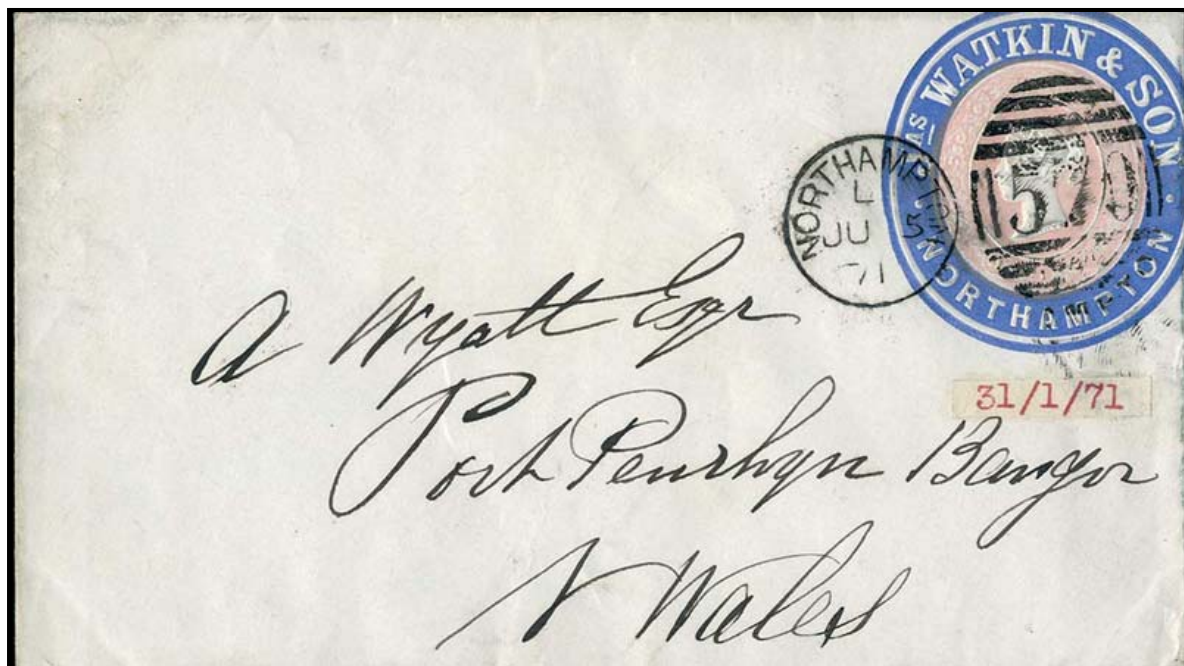
At the spring meeting I purchased four covers bearing line engraved 1d reds from **Rosemary Smith**. The covers had come from **Norman Herwerdine's** collection and had four different perfin designs. At the time I simply thought that these would make a nice addition to my collection but when I got home I noticed that all four covers had the same address - Arthur Wyatt, Port Penrhyn, Bangor, North Wales. The four covers were:

T2947.01	T.L./&Co	Used Liverpool	May 19th 1877
S3630.01	S.H.W/B	Used Brentford	June 18th 1873
H1480.04	H&Co	Used Liverpool	Nov. 15th 1876
W3795.01	W.H/R.	Used Runcorn	June 21st 1876

I then decided to look through my collection and found yet another cover addressed to Arthur Wyatt with J6595.01 - J/R.M.

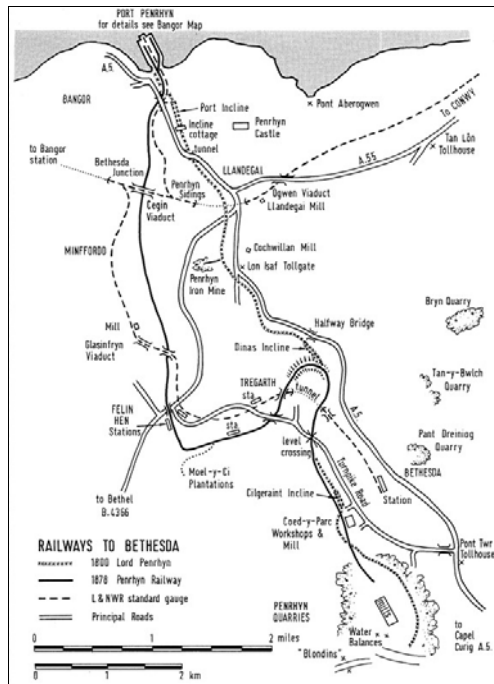
J6595.01	J/R.M	Used Northwich	May 22nd 1878
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Then on the internet I found the beautiful cover below with the embossed advertising circle of Jas. Watkin & Son, Northampton.



So immediately I asked myself - who was this Arthur Wyatt and what did these six covers have in common?

Starting with Jas. Watkins & Co., Northampton I found that they were merchants in timber, lead, glass, oil, slates, tiles and much, much more. Of the five perfin dies only two of them - S.H.W/B and J.R/M have known users. S.H.W/B was used by S. H. Watkins, of Brentford and Uxbridge. Directories of the period describe the company as timber, lime, slate and brick merchants. And J.R/M was used by J.R. Maconochie who were builders and slate merchants based in Northwich. By this time I was seeing a link - "slate".



I then decided to investigate Arthur Wyatt and Port Penrhyn. Anyone familiar with North Wales will be aware of the massive slate industry, which was in full production in the Victorian period producing slates for the thousands of new homes being built in the major cities. I found that Port Penrhyn was the principal port for the shipment of slate from the Penrhyn Quarry. Consulting a North Wales directory I found that Arthur Wyatt was in fact the estate manager for Lord Penrhyn the owner of the

quarry as well as being a local magistrate. I also found that Arthur Wyatt's management of the quarry came to an end in February 3rd 1886 when he seems to have been dismissed.

**PORT PENRHYN AND PENRHYN  
SLATE QUARRY, BANGOR, NORTH WALES**

Mr. Arthur Wyatt's Agency and Management at the above Port and Quarry having ceased, all Orders and Remittances, and all Communications respecting trade both at the Port and the Quarry, are henceforth to be ADDRESSED until further notice to MR. E. A. YOUNG, who has been appointed Agent pro tem. to carry on the business, at Port Penrhyn, Bangor, North Wales; and to whom all cheques are to be made payable, crossed Williams and Co., Old Bank, Bangor.

**G. S. DOUGLAS PENNANT.**  
Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, Feb. 3. 1886.

So having found the link between Jas. Watkin, S. H. Watkins, Maconochie and Wyatt I set about seeing if I could find provisional identities for the other three dies. I started with T.L.&Co

which has been recorded mainly used in Liverpool but also in Newport and Tipton. Using directories and the London Gazette archive I managed to locate Turner, Lanphier & Co, 5 Fenwick St,

Liverpool who were slate & builders merchants. The company went bankrupt in 1879 and the bankruptcy announcement showed that they also operated from Penrhyn Wharf, Newport, Monmouthshire. In the bankruptcy declaration a Benjamin Wyatt was shown as one of the partners so there may in fact have been a family connection as well as a business one. This tied in great with the Newport cancels found on this die and also linked nicely with Penrhyn Quarry.

Having found this new provisional identity I moved on to W.H/R. There are many of these covers on the market, all addressed to Arthur Wyatt, all cancelled in Runcorn and none of them having any identity of the user. But luckily for us Runcorn was not a large town at this period and on looking at an 1874 Cheshire directory I found William Hayes, Top Locks, Runcorn who were described as coal, salt and manganese merchant and forwarding agents. I have no direct evidence that they shipped slate but I would think that as forwarding agents dealing in bulk materials they are the most likely user of this die. I can find little information on William Hayes although I have found that in 1891 he was associated with Brundrit & Co who were described as Stone Merchants in Runcorn. William Hayes became part of Mason, Hayes & Co in November 1876 who traded in nickel ore.



Top Locks - Runcorn

So that leaves just H&Co - the hardest of the four dies as there were no clues. In the Tomkins catalogue they were listed as Hall, Lloyd & Bevan but with no other information. However apparently Hall, Lloyd & Bevan were bankers in Brighton. This seems to have no relation to my cover which was used in Liverpool. The new illustrated catalogue shows this die used in Liverpool, London, Manchester and Stockwell. Searching Liverpool directories of the time there is no obvious contender for a provisional identity. Roy has now decided to delete the Tomkins identity as there is no supporting information for it. He also wonders whether that with the diverse cancellations reported there might be more than one die represented.

I would urge members to have a look at their perfin covers and see whether there are any more out there, addressed to Arthur Wyatt.